

Intellectual Freedom: An International Perspective

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The First Amendment

- *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.*

Bill of Rights, U.S. Constitution

<http://memory.loc.gov.ammem/help/constRedir.html>

The Library Bill of Rights

- Books and other library materials should not be excluded because of their views, or because of the origin and background of the author.
- Libraries should provide materials with a variety of points of view.
- Libraries should challenge censorship.

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Library Bill of Rights (cont'd)

- Libraries should network with those people or groups resisting censorship.
- Libraries should make exhibit and meeting space available to the community they serve, and use the same principles as stated previously—promote a wide variety of views, and resist censorship.

<http://www.ala.org/oif>

(ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom)

Intellectual Freedom Manual *(7th edition)*

- All ALA documents and policies on intellectual freedom, with historical context
- Protecting the privacy of library patrons
- Writing privacy policies
- How to promote the use of Internet in libraries
- Writing Internet use policies

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Intellectual Freedom Manual

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- The American Library Association Code of Ethics
- Library Services for the Poor, Immigrants, Refugees, Physically Disabled
- Library Services for Youth

Article 19

U.N. Declaration of Human Rights

Everyone has the right of freedom of opinion and expression; the right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers.

The Internet Manifesto and Its Guidelines

- Uphold the principles of unfettered access for all, regardless of age, race, religion, and other distinctions.
- Emphasize special responsibilities to children
- Advocate the provision of locally created content

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The Internet Manifesto and Guidelines (cont'd)

- Show respect for and promotion of indigenous languages
- Advocate the use of Internet to create access to government information
- Advocate the use of the best technology affordable
- Advocate the importance of STAFF TRAINING (con'td)

The Internet Manifesto and Guidelines (cont'd)

- Libraries should resist filtering software and other barriers to open access.

<http://www.ifla.org/faife>

FAIFE WORKSHOPS

- General background of principles of freedom of expression
- Case studies
- Barriers to Internet access
- How to write policies
- How policies work in a real library setting
- Differing cultural values